

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 EA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MX, PFOR

SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM H. LUERS

REFS: A. MEXICO 5154

B. MEXICO 5153

C. MEXICO 5156

D. MEXICO 5155

E. MEXICO 4551

F. MEXICO 5217

G. MEXICO 5157

H. MEXICO 5152

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (FOR ARA) MADE PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL ORIENTATION TRIP TO MEXICO CITY AND CIUDAD JUAREZ JUNE 9-13.

2. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS LENGTHY (1 1/2 HOURS) FREEWHEELING DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, WHO WAS VERY CORDIAL AND INSISTED HIS VISITORS STAY LONGER WHEN THEY ONCE ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE. KEY SUBSTANCE OF MEETING (REGARDING OPEC, MEXICAN-KOREAN RELATIONS, CEAUSESCU VISIT, AND SPANISH JUNTA DEMOCRATICA) WAS REPORTED REFS A-D. BUT MEETING WAS ALSO INTERESTING FOR LENGTHY PITCH THE PRESIDENT MADE FOR US UNDERSTANDING OF POLICY AND TONE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION PRESIDENT SHOWED NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE OCTOBER 1968 STUDENT RIOTS AS EXPLANATION OF POINT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT INHERITED CLIMATE OF ALIENATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BITTERNESS, AND LACK OF FAITH IN GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT FELT

HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN GOVERNING AN ALMOST
UNGOVERNABLE COUNTRY AND IMPLICITLY MADE THE POINT THE US SHOULD BE
TOLERANT OF MORE ASSERTIVE MEXICAN TONE TAKEN PARTLY IN RESPONSE
TO THE POST-1968 SITUATION.

3. ECHEVERRIA ALSO JOKINGLY CHIDED AMBASSADOR JOVA (WHO MISSED
CEAUSescu DINNER DUE TO ILLNESS), ALLEGING THAT THE AMBASSADOR
"WAS AFRAID OF MY SPEECHES." (A REFERENCE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S
REMONSTRANCES ON RECENT RHETORICAL EXCESSES - SEE REF E).

4. THE AMBASSADOR AND LUERS AFTERWARDS CALLED UPON FOREIGN
SECRETARY EMILIO RABASA AND UNDER SECRETARY JOSE GALLASTEGUI,
THE FORMER DEALING WITH FREEDOM OF ACTION AS SAN JOSE (IT
APPEARING THAT MEXICAN ARITHMETIC IS UNIMPROVED SINCE QUITO)
SEE REF H AND THE LATTER AFFORDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK IN ON A
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

5. REMAINDER OF SCHEDULE WAS ISSUE ORIENTED, DESIGNED TO PROVIDE
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST
WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE AND RESPONSIBLE GOM OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE
INDIVIDUALS. MR. LUERS MET WITH:

ON ILLEGAL ALIENS

A. SUBSECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM SERGIO OSORIO (SEE REF F);

B. ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JUAN BARONA
LOBATO (ALSO EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF MEXICAN COMMISSION ON
MIGRATORY WORKERS,

C. SUBSECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT FERNANDO GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, AND

D. DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE, EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO, MEMBER OF
MEX COMM ON MIGRATORY WORKERS, AND CO-AUTHOR OF LOS MOJADOS,
"THE WETBACK STORY."

ON MEXICAN ECONOMY, FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY:

A. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PROPERTIES FRANCISCO JAVIER ALEJO
(TWICE, SECOND TIME AT ALEJO'S SUGGESTION) (REF G)
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B. SAMUEL DEL VILLAR, EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO, EXCELSIOR
COLUMNIST, AND

C. ROMEO FLORES CABALLERO, EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO, ADVISOR
TO JAVIER ALEJO

ON US-MEXICAN TRADE RELATIONS

A. SUBSECRETARY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE GUILLERMO BECKER

B. MERLE HAYES AND AL WICHTICH; PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GIVEN THE ABUNDANCE OF RECENT CONTACT WITH GOM ON NARCOTICS
AND PRISONERS ISSUE, THESE SUBJECTS WERE TREATED IN EMBASSY
BRIEFINGS.

6. IN THREE EVENING RECEPTIONS MR. LUERS WAS ABLE TO MEET
GOOD CROSS-SECTION OF A) MID-LEVEL PRACTICING POLITICIANS IN
THE RULING PARTY, B) THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY (EL COLEGIO DE
MEXICO), AND C) THE AMERICAN AND MEXICAN PRIVATE SECTOR. A
LUNCHEON WITH JULIO SCHERER GARCIA, EDITOR OF MEXICO CITY'S
INFLUENTIAL DAILY, EXCELSIOR, COMPLETED THE OFFICIAL PORTION
OF A THREE AND HALF DAY VISIT WITH LITTLE BREATHING SPACE
PROGRAMMED.

7. COMMENT: GOM OFFICIALS TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON OFTEN WITHOUT
NOTICE TO EMBASSY. WE SHALL REMAIN ALERT, HOWEVER, TO OFFICIAL
OR NON-OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF PERSONS WITH WHOM MR. LUERS MET
FOR PURPOSE OF ARRANGING FOLLOW-ON MEETINGS WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY
PRESENTS ITSELF.
JOVA

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